

The process of electronic image reconstruction is credited to Philo Taylor Farnsworth. At the age of 15 he described the process of sending pictures through the air. He later became the innovator of the first practical television.

No other medium has had as great an impact on our consciousness and society as television. The abuses of network TV are great and obvious, and the promise of TV as a marketplace for ideas has not been fulfilled. Access to the network affiliates remain not only cost prohibitive but in the hands of a group of specialists who "produce" information.

Cable television systems possess the resources needed for Public Access and through recent F.C.C. regulations are providing the equipment and technology needed for people-to-people communication. These requirements that cable systems provide non-broadcast access channels for public, educational, and governmental uses have begun an entire new concept in communication services.

The management of Orange Cablevision and the Alternate Media Center of New York University, School of the Arts, have worked together to give us, the community of Orlando, access to television. This experiment named Public Access Workshop has begun; now it is up to us, the community, to discover how to use the entire telecommunications system. The community has already taken a step towards that goal, and this is evident by the amount of video tape already recorded by Workshop members. Live community meetings every Saturday afternoon, and cablecasting programming on our own channel are among the innovations toward understanding under way at the Workshop.

With the whole world as our studio, the situations are forever changing and the possibilities towards understanding are unlimited. The Workshop is growing, and by the nature of a young organization is beginning to expand its activities into a whole community aesthetic project.

The development and responsibilities of Public Access should not be shouldered alone by the cable systems. At the place where the obligations of the cable system ends: the community institutions, groups, and organizations should re-assume the responsibility of community communications and strive forward to establish broad based community information centers available to all the community.

It is this idea of community communications that excites me and prompts me to want to teach people to use the equipment for their use in the communications revolution.

I hope you will join me Friday night, February 23, 1973, at 7:00 P.M. here at the Art Center for a class in Public Access.

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